

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 20 and 21 have been amended. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the specification, for example at page 3, lines 9-16. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 20-31, as amended, will be pending.

Claims 20-25, 27, and 29-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,234,497 to Honig ("Honig"). Claims 20-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over EP 612 831 ("EP '831"). Claims 20-24, 26 and 29-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,025,447 to Mancini. ("Mancini")

With respect to the rejections in view of Honig, respectfully, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Specifically, and as the Examiner noted, Honig discusses isopalmitic acid in combination with short chain fatty acids. Isopalmitic acid is a branched acid and therefore does not suggest straight chain fatty acids having from 16 to 22 carbon atoms.

Similarly, EP '831 requires (See page 2, lines 50-54 of EP '831) the presence of at least 15 mol% isostearic acid and therefore does not suggest a mixture of fatty acids consisting essentially of the claimed fatty acids.

Finally, Mancini discusses molar ratios of short to long chain acids of from 1.5:1 to 6:1. Mancini does not discuss a ratio of esterified acids according to weight. Each of the examples of Mancini includes a weight ratio that is less than 1:1 by weight, which is also suggested by the molar ratios discussed in Mancini and thus does not teach or suggest each and every aspect of Applicant's invention.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

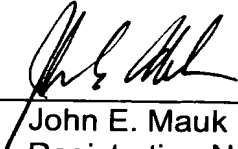
Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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